

Message Text

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10/50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SY-05 SSO-00 /062 W

----- 020611

P R 231107Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4542

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4483

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: CASC, LA (CONWAY, ROSEMARY ANN)

SUBJ: AMCIT ROSEMARY ANN CONWAY

REF: VIENTIANE 4421

SUMMARY: THERE WERE THREE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN CONWAY CASE JUNE 23. FIRST, FOREIGN MINISTRY SENT UNSATISFACTORY REPLY TO OUR JUNE 10 NOTE. SECOND, FOREIGN MINISTRY NEVERTHELESS SAID IT WOULD ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY OF A CASE OF C-RATIONS TO SUBJECT. THIRD, TWO LETTERS WHICH MS. CONWAY EVIDENTLY ARRANGED TO SMUGGLE OUT OF NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTER REACHED US. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLIED JUNE 23 TO OUR NOTE OF JUNE 10 REGARDING MS. CONWAY'S ARREST AND DETENTION ON UNSPECIFIED CHARGES IN APPARENT CONTRAVENTION OF LAO LAW. OPERATIVE SENTENCES OF NOTE ARE AS FOLLOWS IN INFORMAL TRANSLATION:

"FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS HONOR TO ADVISE EMBASSY THAT IT HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MADE DEMARCHES TO MIXED POLICE NECESSARY SO THAT REPRESENTATION

TATIVES OF EMBASSY MIGHT VISIT MRS. CONWAY. THUS THE LATTER WERE ABLE TO INTERVIEW MRS. CONWAY IN PRESENCE OF TWO OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY. FROM CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBASSY PHYSICIAN AND MRS. CONWAY, IT EMERGED CLEARLY THAT HER STATE OF HEALTH SEEMS COMPLETELY NORMAL. CURRENTLY, MIXED POLICE ARE PROCEEDING WITH THEIR INTERROGATION. THEREFORE, IN ORDER THAT THIS INTERROGATION PROCEED NORMALLY AND WITHOUT DELAYS, THE MINISTRY WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S SUSPENDING TEMPORARILY THE VISITS OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO MRS. CONWAY. IN THE EVENT THAT HER HEALTH SHOULD REQUIRE A MEDICAL CONSULTATION, OUR PHYSICIAN WILL BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO ATTEND TO

HER." (COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLY SAYS NOTHING ABOUT CHARGES OR FACT THAT SUBJECT HAS BEEN DETAINED FOR MORE THAN 72 HOURS WITHOUT FILING OF CHARGES. ALSO, SECOND AND MOST RECENT CONSULAR VISIT TO SUBJECT WAS AUTHORIZED JUNE 11, ONE DAY AFTER OUR NOTE WAS DELIVERED; AS OUR TELEGRAMS INDICATE, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD REPEATEDLY TO "POSTPONE" FURTHER VISITS EVER SINCE.)

2. AT SAME TIME, EMBOFF WHO VISITED FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICE OF PROTOCOL PRIMARILY ON ANOTHER MATTER AFTERNOON OF JUNE 23 WAS TOLD THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD ACCEPT CASE OF C-RATIONS FOR DELIVERY TO SUBJECT. PROTOCOL OFFICER MADE CLEAR TO EMBOFF THAT HE HAD SOUGHT AND OBTAINED AUTHORIZATION EVEN FOR THIS SIMPLE DELIVERY OF FOOD FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET.

3. MEANWHILE, TWO LETTERS WRITTEN BY SUBJECT IN PRISON ON/ ABOUT JUNE 20 WERE DELIVERED TO EMBASSY MORNING JUNE 23. SUBJECT HAD EVIDENTLY ARRANGED TO HAVE LETTERS SMUGGLED OUT BY PRISON GUARD. THERE IS NOT REASON TO DOUBT THEIR AUTHENTICITY.

4. FIRST LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO SUBJECT'S PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM CURTAIN AND "TIM", 3308 E. PERSHING, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85032. IT IS CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH SUBJECT'S INFANT DAUGHTER IN UDORN AND REQUESTS THAT RELATIVES IN U.S. SEND MONEY AND BABY CLOTHES, ETC., TO MR. AND MRS. CLIFF MARTIN WHO ARE CARING FOR THE CHILD. IT ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNSELS FAMILY NOT TO TALK TO PRESS. THIS LETTER IS BEING SENT TO ADDRESSEES UNDER COVER OF NOTE FROM CONSULAR OFFICER WITH CURRENT APO ADDRESSES FOR SUBJECT IN VIENTIANE AND MARTIN COUPLE C/O CONSULATE UDORN. ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO ADVISE FAMILY. (COPY IS ALSO BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.)

5. SECOND LETTER IS INTENDED FOR CONSULAR OFFICER VIENTIANE.

IT IS TWICE AS LONG AS LETTER TO FAMILY AND SOMEWHAT RAMBLING BUT GETS ACROSS POINT THAT SUBJECT IS BEING URGED BY LPF AUTHORITIES TO SIGN A CONFESSION THAT SHE WAS A COVERT AGENT FOR CIA WHO HAD OFFERED A RLAF OPERATIONS OFFICER \$5000 FOR EACH PILOT WHO WOULD FLY AN AIRCRAFT FROM LAOS TO THAILAND. COPY OF THIS LETTER IS ALSO BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. WE ARE NOT SENDING THIS LETTER TO FAMILY AT THIS TIME BOTH BECAUSE IT IS SOMEWHAT SENSATIONAL AND MIGHT PROVE UPSETTING TO SUBJECT'S PARENTS AND ALSO BECAUSE IT CONTAINS SOME COMMENTS ABOUT HER RELATIVES (E.G., THAT FATHER AND SISTER ARE HIGH STRUNG) WHICH SUBJECT WOULD PROBABLY PREFER THEY NOT SEE. THIS LETTER ALSO PAINTS RATHER GRIM PICTURE OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUBJECT IS CONFINED AND STRENGTHENED OUR DETERMINATION TO GET FOOD TO HER. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH CLOTHING AND READING MATERIAL BY SAME ROUTE IF WE CANNOT ARRANGE EARLY CONSULAR VISIT.

6. OUR INTENTION REMAINS TO TREAT THIS CASE PRIMARILY AS A CONSULAR MATTER. HOWEVER, POL COUNSELOR WILL ALSO RAISE IT AMONG OTHER MATTERS IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHEF DE CABINET MORNING JUNE 24.

CHAPMAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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